

What is claimed is:

1. A software updating system, comprising:

an update data supplying apparatus for supplying update
5 confirmation information regarding the presence or absence of updates for
predetermined software via a network;

an electronic device for executing a process in accordance with said
update confirmation information supplied from said update data
supplying apparatus, wherein

10 said electronic device includes:

acquisition means for acquiring update management data
indicating a timing for confirming the presence of updates for installed
software;

storage means for storing said update management data
15 acquired by said acquisition means;

judging means for judging based on said update
management data whether or not, among said installed software, there
exists software for which the presence of updates needs to be confirmed;

detection means for detecting said update data supplying
20 apparatus to which an inquiry is to be made on the presence of updates for
said software for which said judging means has judged a confirmation to
be necessary;

inquiring means for making an inquiry on the presence of
updates for said software to said update data supplying apparatus
25 detected by said detection means; and

execution means for executing a process based on said
update confirmation information supplied from said update data
supplying apparatus in response to said inquiry made by said inquiring
means, and

30 said update data supplying apparatus includes:

confirmation means for confirming the presence or absence

of updates for said software regarding which there was an inquiry on the presence of updates by said inquiring means of said electronic device; and supplying means for supplying to said electronic device said update confirmation information in accordance with a confirmation result by said confirmation means.

2. The software updating system according to claim 1, wherein said update confirmation information is one of update data for updating said software and information indicating the presence or absence of updates.

3. The software updating system according to claim 1, wherein said update management data is attached to said installed software, and said acquisition means of said electronic device acquires said attached update management data from said installed software.

4. The software updating system according to claim 1, wherein said acquisition means of said electronic device acquires said update management data from a developer of said installed software.

5. An information processing apparatus which executes a process in accordance with update confirmation information supplied from an update data supplying apparatus that supplies via a network said update confirmation information regarding the presence or absence of updates for predetermined software, comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring update management data indicating a timing for confirming the presence of updates for installed software;

storage means for storing said update management data acquired by said acquisition means;

judging means for judging based on said update management data whether or not, among said installed software, there exists software for

which the presence of updates needs to be confirmed;

detection means for detecting said update data supplying apparatus to which an inquiry is to be made on the presence of updates for said software for which said judging means has judged a confirmation to
5 be necessary;

inquiring means for making an inquiry on the presence of updates for said software to said update data supplying apparatus detected by said detection means; and

execution means for executing a process based on said update
10 confirmation information supplied from said update data supplying apparatus in response to said inquiry made by said inquiring means.

6. An information processing method of an information processing apparatus which executes a process in accordance with update
15 confirmation information supplied from an update data supplying apparatus that supplies via a network said update confirmation information regarding the presence or absence of updates for predetermined software, comprising the steps of:

acquiring update management data indicating a timing for
20 confirming the presence of updates for installed software;

storing said update management data acquired in said acquisition step;

judging based on said update management data whether or not, among said installed software, there exists software for which the
25 presence of updates needs to be confirmed;

detecting said update data supplying apparatus to which an inquiry is to be made on the presence of updates for said software for which a confirmation has been judged to be necessary in said judging step;

making an inquiry on the presence of updates for said software to
30 said update data supplying apparatus detected in said detection step; and
executing a process based on said update confirmation information

supplied from said update data supplying apparatus in response to said inquiry made in said step of making said inquiry.

7. A recording medium in which is recorded a computer readable
5 program for an information processing apparatus which executes a process in accordance with update confirmation information supplied from an update data supplying apparatus that supplies via a network said update confirmation information regarding the presence or absence of updates for predetermined software, said program comprising:
- 10 an acquisition control step for controlling the acquisition of update management data indicating a timing for confirming the presence of updates for installed software;
- a storage control step for controlling the storing of said update management data acquired in said acquisition control step;
- 15 a judging control step for controlling the judgment based on said update management data as to whether or not, among said installed software, there exists software for which the presence of updates needs to be confirmed;
- a detection control step for controlling the detection of said update
20 data supplying apparatus to which an inquiry is to be made on the presence of updates for said software for which a confirmation has been judged to be necessary in said judging control step;
- an inquiry control step for controlling the making of an inquiry on the presence of updates for said software to said update data supplying
25 apparatus detected in said detection control step; and
- an execution control step for controlling the execution of a process based on said update confirmation information supplied from said update data supplying apparatus in response to said inquiry made in said inquiry control step.

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8. A program for an information processing apparatus which

executes a process in accordance with update confirmation information supplied from an update data supplying apparatus that supplies via a network said update confirmation information regarding the presence or absence of updates for predetermined software, wherein said program

5 makes a computer execute a process, comprising:

- an acquisition control step for controlling the acquisition of update management data indicating a timing for confirming the presence of updates for installed software;
- 10 a storage control step for controlling the storing of said update management data acquired in said acquisition control step;
- a judging control step for controlling the judgment based on said update management data as to whether or not, among said installed software, there exists software for which the presence of updates needs to be confirmed;
- 15 a detection control step for controlling the detection of said update data supplying apparatus to which an inquiry is to be made on the presence of updates for said software for which a confirmation has been judged to be necessary in said judging control step;
- an inquiry control step for controlling the making of an inquiry on
- 20 the presence of updates for said software to said update data supplying apparatus detected in said detection control step; and
- an execution control step for controlling the execution of a process based on said update confirmation information supplied from said update data supplying apparatus in response to said inquiry made in said inquiry
- 25 control step.